



# New Class Set Up

As you know, we have been joined this year by Miss de Carles, who will be teaching the year 3 and 4 class in the mornings and all the Key Stage 2 pupils on Monday and Friday afternoons. We have therefore been able to establish a more permanent Upper Key Stage 2 classroom in the hall area, which will be known as Mighty Oaks. Year 5 and 6 will work within this smaller group for English, Maths, Science, PSHCE, Computing and Music and will join with year 3 and 4 for history, geography, RE, Art and Philosophy.



# Timetable for term 1

- English and Maths will be taught every morning by Mrs. Davies.
- Monday afternoons: Art and Philosophy - all of KS2 with Miss de Carles.
- Tuesday afternoons: History - all of KS2 with Mrs. Davies.
- Wednesday afternoons: years 5 and 6 - Science and PSHE with Mrs. Davies.
- Thursday (come in PE kit)
  - mornings: all of KS2- PE with Mr. Peters and (5/6) Maths/English.
  - Afternoons: all of KS2 - RE with Mrs. Davies and PE with Mr. Peters.
- Friday afternoons: years 5 and 6 - French with Mme Campbell, Computing and Music with Miss de Carles.

# What are the main differences under Covid restrictions?

As we are a small school, we are fortunate to have been granted permission to operate as one bubble, which means that the children are able to enjoy their playtimes together as a whole school as usual. We have had to restrict the type of play that they engage in to avoid games which involve physical contact, but we have a selection of play equipment available (regularly washed) and the children are all managing this really well with little disruption.

Pupils are all facing in the same direction. As a teacher, when talking a child, I will approach from and remain by their side to avoid close face-to-face discussion. This also means that we cannot work in groups at present, though children can work in pairs.

Worship is currently taking place in class groups and does not include singing (outdoor whole-schools gatherings are planned, where pupils can be sufficiently socially-distanced for some singing to be included).

We have additional handwashing /sanitising in place – each time the children enter the classrooms and before and after lunch, they all ensure that their hands are cleaned.

All pupils have an individual pot of pens, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, scissors so that regularly-used resources are not shared.

Areas that are frequently touched such as tables, chairs, door handles, toilet flushes etc. are all regularly cleaned and a thorough clean takes place again at the end of each day.

# Assessments

We are carrying out more assessments than would ordinarily be the case at this time of year in order to establish where the children are following the disruption to their learning.

This will help to identify those children who are ready to move on to next steps and those who may need some support to fill any gaps in their understanding. It is likely that some pupils will need opportunities for one-to-one or small group time apart from the rest of the class to address their differing needs and I will contact you if I think this will be helpful, letting you know what support we would like to offer.

# Homework

Government advice for pupils in Key Stage 2 is that they spend 30 mins per day on independent learning tasks. Daily reading and maths fluency tasks are expected to take up the bulk of this time.

Homework will be given out on Fridays and books (and reading records) should be handed in on Thursday mornings. Homework (which will include online activities) will involve reading, maths practice and spelling practice every week. Other tasks may vary but will be made clear on the weekly homework sheet.

If your child has a reading book that is not on the Accelerated Reader Scheme, they should write about the book on completion (in their homework book) so that I can count this toward their termly reading target.

- Homework tasks will be based on our learning during the week, so pupils should be able to complete these independently. Please ask your child to speak to me as soon as possible if they have any difficulties.
- If pupils are struggling to complete online tasks at home, please let me know and I will arrange for them to have access to technology before lessons begin in the morning.

# Reading

We have an increasing selection of books in school that have been coded according to the Accelerated Reader System (for those new to this, I have included an introductory slide) and pupils have already been told which books they should select from. These books can now be taken home and will be 'quarantined' for 72 hours on return before being placed back on the shelves.

All children are expected to read daily at home for at least 15 minutes. This activity should be logged in their reading record – independent readers can record this for themselves and parents/carers can sign this off each time or weekly. If your child no longer reads aloud to you, please encourage them to talk to you about what they have read, particularly the meaning of any new words that they encounter – it would be helpful if these could be noted in their reading record so that we can follow up their understanding. Some children, particularly reluctant readers, also really benefit from listening to Audio books, so please do include these in their literary diet.

Pupils will be set an individual termly reading target on the Accelerated Reader System, which, if they read for the required time, they should meet comfortably. Certificates will be awarded to pupils who reach their target and a termly 'Worm of the Term' award will be given to one child selected for their effort/progress in, or engagement with reading.

# Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is a software application that allows pupils, parents and teachers to keep a track of books that have been read and how well these have been remembered and understood. As a teacher, it allows me to suggest books that will best help pupils to progress as a reader, by selecting texts that are matched to their current ability – neither too challenging not too simple.

When pupils complete a book within the system, they log in to the reading programme and use an easy lookup tool to find the text. They are then able to take a quiz to test their comprehension and the title is added to their virtual bookshelf. By taking quizzes, pupils collect points towards their reading target.

The address for our school portal is:

<https://ukhosted62.renlearn.co.uk/2238872>

All pupils have an individual username and password which will be found in the front of their reading record and homework book.

**Please note:** Whilst a huge number of books are included within the system, there are inevitably some that are not. Children can, of course, read books that interest them that are not included on the system. Please ensure that, on completion, they write about these books in their homework book so that I can count them towards their reading target.

# Mathematics - awards schemes

We are no longer operating the Maths Passport scheme. To replace these we are introducing two learning / reward systems for mathematics:

## ➤ Times Tables champions

We will begin by establishing which multiplication tables (and associated divisions) the children can securely recall at speed. They will then be allocated the next table to learn. Tables will be tested every Friday, and stickers added to a chart for those that are secured. At the end of each term, teachers will recognise endeavour and/or achievement by selecting a champion.

## ➤ Key Skills

We have identified key mathematical skills that are essential to understanding and progress in mathematics. Once pupils have mastered a group of these skills, they will receive a certificate of competence. There are 5 certificates that can be gained during the year.

Pupils will also be given tasks to complete on Mathletics and can continue to earn awards for these.

# What can you do to help?

- Encourage independence.
- Make sure your child is reading every day and checking the meaning of any new words (or longer phrases) they encounter - either themselves, with you, or by noting in their reading record for discussion with me.
- Help your child to learn, retain and quickly recall their multiplication and division facts.
- Encourage them to widen their vocabulary and to bring in new words for 'Shakespeare's store' - we will open his tin once a week to see which words have been added and by whom.
- Talk to me (or ask your child to talk to me) as soon as possible if anything is worrying them.

## And finally....

It is impossible to predict every query that you, as parents, may have.

If you have any queries at any time, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Although social distancing makes a quick chat after school difficult, this is possible if you don't mind a few minutes' wait; alternatively you could call the school to arrange a chat over the telephone, or email the office at [admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk)

I am really looking forward to teaching under the new class set up and hope that, as time goes on, we will be able to resume more of our usual activities. In the meantime, please be assured that we are all working hard to make the school day as normal as possible.